



Attorneys Inspired by the Ahlul Bayt (as)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

LSAT Handbook

16 June 2021

The Law School Admission Test plays a significant role in an applicant's admission prospects as it is the only standardized heuristic available to admissions offices to compare applicants.

About the LSAT:

The **in-person LSAT** contains 6 sections:

- 2 sections of **logical reasoning: short riddle type questions**
- 1 section of **logic games: long word problem, algebra type questions**
- 1 section of **reading comprehension**
- 1 **additional section of any of the above 3 categories**. This section is ungraded but the test taker is unaware of which section is the ungraded section. The test makers use this section to test questions for future exams.
- **A writing prompt**, which is usually administered online, separately from the in-person exam, at a test taker's convenience. This section is ungraded and does not need to be prepared for.

The **online LSAT Flex**, which is being administered during COVID, contains 4 sections:

- 1 section of **logical reasoning**.
- 1 section of **logic games**.
- 1 section of **reading comprehension**.
- No experimental section.
- The **writing prompt** that is administered separately from the main exam.

Preparing to take the LSAT

Step 1:

The most important first step is to take a **full practice exam** in realistic settings. The Law School Admission Council's website has a free practice exam. Recreate the **time restrictions** and other conditions of the actual exam, such as allotted breaks, desk setup, etc. Taking an exam with no prior preparation can be frightening but this allows for the establishment of a starting point. This baseline in no way will reflect upon an applicant's potential score.

Step 2:

Establishing a timeline of preparation is **subjective**, but in order to achieve a high score, time and effort will have to be dedicated to exam preparation. Additionally, other aspects of the application, such as essays, gathering letters of recommendation, creating a strong resume, and achieving a high GPA will have to be accounted for in scheduling. It is better to do things **right rather than quickly**. The LSAT can always be postponed or retaken. A GPA, once established, is nearly impossible to retroactively change. A GPA has a set deadline, whereas the LSAT only has to be taken once an applicant is feeling most prepared.

Step 3:

Finding resources!

- **Free:**
 - To access paid courses, many law firms, schools, and other institutions offer **scholarships and waivers** to courses from test prep companies such as Kaplan. Research to see how one of these waivers or scholarships can be accessed. Many cater specifically to underrepresented minority and or low-income students.
 - Many organizations such as **Sponsors for Education Opportunities**, offer their own free LSAT prep courses for applicants belonging to disenfranchised groups. Research to see how to gain admission into a course such as this.
 - **Khan Academy** has a free online LSAT course which is the best self-paced completely free resource.
- **Paid:**
 - Test prep should be viewed as an **investment** towards the goal of becoming an attorney. A higher LSAT score can result in application fee waivers and higher law school scholarships. This is one place to invest, after ensuring that the course or tutor is the **best fit**. **Kaplan** is a well-established test prep company that has the advantage of being able to repeat the course as many times as the applicant wants, after paying for it only once.

Study Strategies

This study strategy was used by an AMBA member to raise their LSAT score by 20 points!

Concept behind the strategy-

Practice does not make perfect rather, **perfect practice makes perfect**. Most students will follow the format of

- studying LSAT concepts
- and then performing practice problems, a practice section or a practice test,
- correct their questions afterward
- and then finally try and figure out what they are doing incorrectly. This strategy needs to be reversed.

Most people don't remember what they had for breakfast the previous day so how can one be expected to remember the exact thought process they had while performing an LSAT question 3 hours ago.

Immediate feedback must be delivered after performing each question so that the student can correct their thought process **immediately**. Practice should be proportional to weakness and what is tested most on the exam. **Thought process correction, exam endurance, and conceptual understanding** should all be trained **separately** as training them together will ultimately lead to all three being **compromised**.

This concept in application-

1. Monday: Practice with Immediate Feedback, 1 hour

- **Select** a practice exam to work on for the week. Save more recent exams for when the test date approaches. **Do not reuse exams.**
- **Take** the first section of that exam and pull up its corresponding answer key, or better yet, its explanation file. Kaplan has the best explanation files.
- **Perform** the first question, without looking at the answer key or explanation file, and determine the final answer.
- Turn to the answer key or explanation file and check to see whether the answer is correct or incorrect.
- **Study** why the correct answer is correct and why all the wrong answers are incorrect.
 - ◆ If the explanation file is accessible, understand **how the professional test taker reads the question, analyzes the question, analyzes each answer choice, and chooses the correct answer.**

- ◆ **Read** the full explanation for everything. Even the explanation for why each wrong answer is wrong.
- **Reflect** upon the thought process used and adjust accordingly against the correct method to improve the thought process in real time. **Even if a question was answered correctly, the thought process employed may have been flawed.**
- Do not do the ungraded section if there is not an answer key or explanation file available for that section.

2. Tuesday: Practice with Immediate Feedback, 1 hour

- **Repeat** the same strategy laid out on Monday, but using the next section of the same practice exam.

3. Wednesday: Practice with Immediate Feedback, 1 hour

- **Repeat** the same strategy laid out on Monday, but using the next section of the same practice exam.
- If taking the COVID online LSAT Flex, this will be the last day of practice employing the immediate feedback method.
 - ◆ Ensure that a section of each category is performed. If Monday was logic games, then Tuesday and Wednesday should be logical reasoning and reading comprehension.

4. Thursday: Practice with Immediate Feedback, 1 hour/ Break for LSAT Flex

- **Repeat** the same strategy laid out on Monday, but using the next section of the same practice exam.
- If taking the COVID online LSAT Flex, this will be a break day for LSAT. Work on other application components today, focus on school and or work, and relax from LSAT. This is vital to prevent LSAT burnout and to allow the feedback to absorb.
- If taking the in-person LSAT, this is the last day of practice employing the immediate feedback method.
 - ◆ Ensure that a section of each category is performed in proportion to the sections on the actual exam. **Two days should have been spent on logical reasoning, one day on logic games, and one day on reading comprehension.**

5. Friday: Mandatory Break for All

- This is a mandatory day off from the LSAT. Burnout is too real and the information must be absorbed.

6. Saturday: Exam Day, Endurance, Score Tracking

- Take a full practice exam in the **most realistic conditions** possible. Realistic conditions include LSAT timing, breaks, permissible food, test day setting, etc.
- **Do not revisit this exam** after taking it. Do not do any other LSAT prep on this day.
- This day is for building exam endurance and tracking score progress.

7. Sunday: Study Day, 2 hours

- Based upon Saturday's exam scores per section and questions, **determine question types to focus on**. This can be either determined manually or if online tools such as Kaplan are accessible, then the virtual grading tool will provide areas to focus on.
- Use available resources to study the conceptual matter necessary to improve performance in these weak areas.
- If accessible, this is when a **tutor** is most helpful.

Rinse and repeat this weekly structure until the desired score is achieved. **If experiencing burnout, instead of a full section on Practice with Immediate Feedback days, just do the odd-numbered questions.**

Burnout is often the primary barrier between a student and their desired LSAT score. Every day, except exam day, choose a **relaxing setting**, such as a favorite coffee shop. Eat snacks, listen to something, **enjoy the process** and make it as pleasurable as possible. **Make the most of break days** and when not spending the allotted time on LSAT prep, **remove it from the consciousness**, the brain will be processing it in the background, so nothing extra is achieved through additional stress.